

FFA new horizons

The magazine of the National FFA Organization

January/February 1997



**your
new
crew**

1996-97 NATIONAL FFA OFFICERS
TAKE THE STAGE AT CONVENTION



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DUPONT NEW CENTURY FARMERS PROGRAM
OPENS A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES

*Preparing Young Farmers to Participate in a Dynamic
Global Marketplace*

KANSAS CITY, MO -- (November 13, 1996) -- Agriculture is the most dynamic industry in America right now, one innovative farmer said recently. That's the viewpoint DuPont Agricultural Products hopes to nourish, by piloting an education and mentoring program for young people interested in farming as a career.

The program, sponsored by DuPont, in cooperation with the National FFA Organization, is intended to help young, potential farmers see the exciting opportunities available to them in farming as we head into the 21st century, according to Glenn Sims, Senior Regional Director, National FFA Foundation.

"Production is the cornerstone of the future of the agriculture industry," Sims said. "If we can help FFA members with farming backgrounds to see that future in a brighter way, it will not only benefit the students, it will also enhance the future of our industry."

The program will offer students the opportunity to learn about various farming opportunities such as:

News

Are you a "New Century Farmer?"

If you come from a farming background, are between 18 and 22 years of age, and intend to return to farming as a career – we want to talk to you!

We think the time has never been better to be a farmer businessperson. Now, we want to know your thoughts about the New Century Farmer – and you might be selected to represent young farmers at an exciting seminar with all your expenses paid! Just call DuPont toll-free at 1-888-6DUPONT for the "DuPont New Century Farmers Program" application and fill it out.

If you're chosen, you'll be able to learn about:

- How farmers profit from added-value products
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- How farmers are taking advantage of new farm business opportunities and how they are using technology
- How you can use these strategies in your farm business

You'll also have the opportunity to connect with an innovative farmer-mentor who can share his experiences in farming.

Are you the "New Century Farmer" we're searching for? Call 1-888-6DUPONT (1-888-638-7668) today – the deadline for applications is March 1, 1997. We're waiting to hear from you.



DuPont Agricultural Products



features

10 If the shoe fits...

He has clients in three states and operates his business from a state-of-the-art truck. Meet Kyle Bailey, an FFA member who's taking horseshoeing to a new level.

15 Cutting the cost of college

Nobody ever said it was going to be cheap. Find out how you can keep those college bills from piling up by securing financial aid.

coverstory

18 Kansas City—The only place to be

Here's your front row seat for the 69th National FFA Convention! With enthusiastic speakers, interactive workshops, tough competitions, late-night dances and earth-shaking light and sound shows, a record-breaking swarm of 41,275 descended on Kansas City.

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FFA Mission Statement

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.



one on one with

Corey Rosenbusch

FFA New Horizons had a chance to visit with Corey just after he was named the 1996-1997 national FFA president.

What is your number one goal as national officer?

My number one goal as national officer is to encourage members that they are capable of doing anything, and to let them know that the national officer team and I—we're all just regular people and we all started out in the same places they are now.

When did you know you wanted to be a national officer?

It would probably have to be during my first national convention when I was a sophomore. I was the only person from my chapter there, and I was all by myself walking around—it was just me and my dad, who is my ag teacher. I saw the national officers up on stage, and I said, "Wow, that would be neat to do." It wasn't until I was at State Presidents' Conference, and I hung around the national officer

team, and they showed me what it was all about. That's when I really started working toward it.

Have there been any setbacks or failures you've had to overcome to get here?

Most definitely. My best friend in the world, Ann Leslie, was in my chapter. Her sister was a state officer, and we both had the same goals—to be state FFA officers. So we both ran for district office and she beat me. We ran for area and she beat me, so I was never a president until I was state president, so it's been kind of a new feeling for me. That was my biggest setback—all of the competition I had to go through in the beginning and never making it

to the top. I had to work my way up.

What do you plan to do after college?

I want to get my teaching certificate and teach ag one day. I'd also like, at some point, to be a professional motivational speaker or do leadership consulting—something along those lines.

What do you do outside of school and FFA?

I just love to talk. That's my favorite thing to do. At college, I go and hang out over in our student center and just chat with people. I love hanging around with my family.

How was the national officer nominating process?

Emotionally draining. It was fun, I had a good time. The convention was awesome—I loved it. I loved my week up here. It was hurry up and wait—probably one of my most emotional times. From the time I got onto the plane Sunday [before convention] up until an hour ago, my stomach has been in knots. It's a nice relief. ✱



vital signs

President: Corey Rosenbusch
Home town: Glen Rose, Texas
Age: 19
Chapter: 1000, Rose
Advisor: C. Rosenbusch
SAE: Swine Production
Education: Cuernavaca, Mexico
freshman at Te...
Major: Agricultural
development

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January/February 1997

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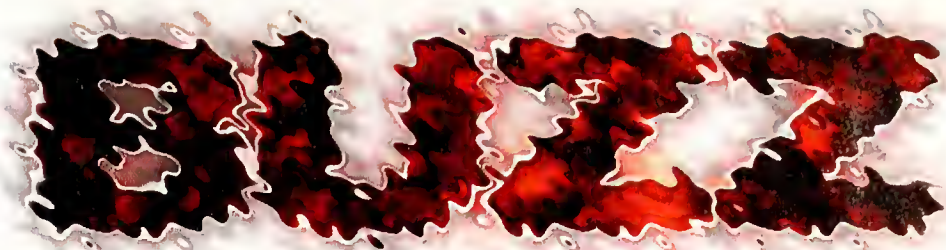


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Go Biotech!
In March, Channel One and the FFA will present a satellite event on biotechnology. Watch for details on this event to be sent to your school. Tell your agricultural education department staff if you're interested in this exciting event.

Rocky'swackywebworld



Geez! It's about time I got my own column!

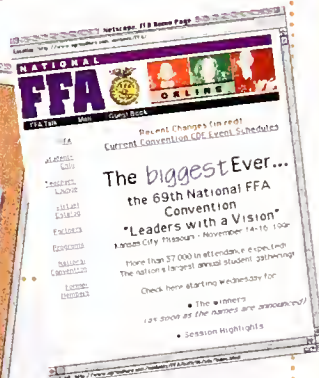
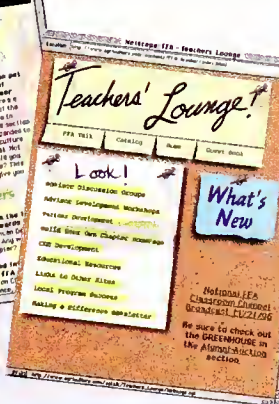
Play detective on the internet

Try your hand at finding the answers to these questions on National FFA Online, <http://www.ffa.org>.

1. What is the name of the section that gives information on the FFA colors, motto and official dress? (Hint: Look under the FFA section.)
2. Which national officer cut the ribbon at the Career Show opening at the national convention in November? (Check out Big Dreams under Virtual Convention.)
3. What kind of animal does Mrs. Zabello have in

her agriculture education classroom to study animal behavior (other than fish)? (Hint: Look in the Virtual Classroom under Students Only in the Virtual FFA section.)

4. How much do FFA boxer shorts cost from the online Virtual Catalog?
5. Who is the computer whiz in the Chapter FFA section in Students Only?



ffamailbag

Dear FFA New Horizons,

It is with the greatest amount of admiration that I thank and congratulate one of your "FFA Stars," **Joel Bernhard** (September/October issue).

Sitting late one night on the floor in my room, I was reading *FFA New Horizons*. I am a Virginia Association state officer and was about to go back to my home chapter to speak on the opportunities

in FFA. I was looking for someone who had accomplished several of the levels in FFA to share during the meeting. When I opened to the "FFA Stars" page I began reading about Joel.

Joel is a member of the Lomira FFA in Wisconsin and is an avid hunter. He participates in band and just received a state proficiency award. Joel does all of these things

and is blind.

Here I had found a story about someone who had succeeded in FFA.

I send Joel my deepest admiration—you are a winner!

Sincerely,
Gayle Cox

Virginia FFA Association
Central Area Vice President

erich'ssay

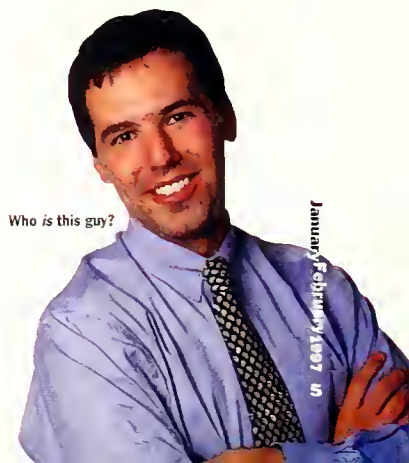
As the new editor of *FFA New Horizons*, I'd like to wish you all a great 1997.

We've got some great stories to tell in this issue, including coverage of the national FFA convention, and a profile on **Kyle Bailey**, an FFA member with a booming horseshoeing operation.

I never had the chance to wear the blue and gold. As a native Iowan, though, I've always been close to agriculture, whether driving over to the Farm Progress Show every year with my dad as a kid, or by working as an intern at Pioneer Hi-Bred.

I developed my interest in journalism in college and landed my first job out of school in the newsroom of the Des Moines Register, the largest daily newspaper in Iowa.

I now look forward to serving you here at *FFA New Horizons*. See you in March. Enjoy!



Who is this guy?

A timeless classic



...for a whole new generation.

Case Corporation and FFA are proud to celebrate 50 years of working together. To honor this auspicious occasion, we're offering a limited-edition, PRECISION SERIES™ 1/16 scale replica of the classic IH Farmall M, one of the most popular tractors of all time, and an early forerunner of modern Case IH tractors.

This timeless piece of American agricultural history can be yours for a donation of \$150 or more to the National FFA Organization. Your generous support of FFA helps today's members become

tomorrow's new generation of agricultural leaders.

The Farmall M replica displays such precise detailing as a rotating belt pulley, a swinging hitch and left and right brake pedals, thus evoking memories of another era in farming. A commemorative decal and cast inscription highlight the 50-year relationship between Case and FFA to make this tractor a true collector's item.

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To order by credit card, call 703-780-5600
or FAX order to 800-366-6556.

CASE IH

Kentucky

The true holiday spirit

Everyone gets involved when Scott County FFA celebrates the holidays. Every year the chapter organizes a Thanksgiving food drive, which has yielded 10,000 canned goods over the past three years. With the help of a local charity, the food is then distributed to the needy. But it doesn't end there. At Christmas, one or two chapter members "adopt" an elderly resident at a local nursing home and purchase that resident a gift. The chapter gives out 90 to 100 gifts each Christmas.*



A Scott County FFA Chapter member shares the Christmas spirit with a nursing home resident.

Nebraska

Parading with honors

It might not be on the scale of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, but for the the Prague FFA Chapter, the Saunders County Fair Parade is a chance to share the FFA message with the community. For the third time, the chapter's float has earned a #1 rating in the parade. With the message, "FFA—Go for the Gold," the chapter truly earned the rating. Nebraska state officers Jennifer Jarecke and Ryan Buschkamp joined the chapter and rode on the float during the parade.*



Submitted by Donald Sousek, chapter reporter.

Indiana

Racing hunger

The Indiana FFA Association recently unveiled "The Race to End Hunger," a program run by FFA members to help feed the hungry. Indiana Governor Evan Bayh helped kick off the campaign at the state FFA convention. Later, at the Indiana State Fair, Lieutenant Governor Frank O'Bannon gave the signal to start the children's canned food relay, where young children used wagons to collect and carry canned food across a finish line. The state officer team has challenged all Indiana chapters to join in "the race."*



A participant displays her new FFA T-shirt during the children's canned food relay as part of "The Race to End Hunger."

Iowa

Pride in the environment

With a \$489 environmental stewardship grant from the National Rifle Association, the Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter put on their work clothes and helped out at the Delaware County Conservation Service's Nature Center. Besides giving tours and cleaning and restoring displays at the center, the students designed and built a new tree display and a new fish display, featuring species native to the state.*

Submitted by Lindsay Schnittjer, chapter reporter.

Missouri

On target for success

The Mexico FFA Chapter recently held its second annual Sporting Clays Shoot at Twin Lakes Sporting Club. The event is a fundraiser, with money going toward leadership conferences, the trip to national convention and other annual events. The event attracted over 100 shooters, all of whom were served a roasted hog dinner. Local businesses donated door prizes, including a Marlin 882SS .22 caliber rifle.*

Submitted by Dana Henke, chapter reporter.



BEAUTY IS IN THE EYE OF THE RESTORER

Announcing the 1997 Tractor Restoration Competition

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Amoco Lubricants is proud to sponsor the 1997 Tractor Restoration Competition. Since 1889, Amoco has been dedicated to providing the agricultural industry with the finest available lubricants. We also strongly support the FFA and believe the 1997 Tractor Restoration Competition will provide a valuable learning experience for the nation's agricultural leaders of tomorrow.



\$10,000 IN PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED!

Two categories of competition, Chapter and Individual, will compete for grand prizes of \$2,500 each.

First Runners-Up will receive \$1,500, and Second Runners-Up will win \$1,000.

All winners will be determined by a panel of knowledgeable, carefully selected judges, and all prizes will be awarded at the FFA National Convention in Kansas City, MO in November, 1997.

ENTRIES WILL BE JUDGED IN 5 MAIN CATEGORIES.

Restored tractors will be evaluated on their mechanics, appearance, documentation and safety features.

An oral review will conclude each entry's evaluation. To be eligible for prizes, all entries must be received by September 1, 1997.

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Complete competition details, rules and criteria for judging can be found in the 1997 Tractor Restoration Enrollment Form, available from your Amoco Lubricants Distributor. He will also be able to provide any of the necessary lubricants to complete your restoration project.

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José Santiago

José Manuel Santiago, 17, is the vice president of the Puerto Rico FFA Association. From the city of Camuy, José has been involved in the FFA for the past five years. He is an inspirational speaker who has competed successfully in prepared and extemporaneous speaking. He is also a member of the Puerto Rico National Team in swimming (100m backstroke and 50m freestyle), where he has won gold and silver medals in Pan-American invitational meets. Swimming and FFA have given José the chance develop leadership for a lifetime. His goal is to be a national officer.



PUERTO RICO

José Manuel Santiago, 17 años, es el Presidente Estatal de la Asociación de Puerto Rico. Natural de Camuy, José ha participado en varios competencias de oratoria en la que ha dado galas de su talento. Es además, integrante de la selección Nacional Juvenil de Puerto Rico en el deporte de natación. Su especialidad es 100M modalidad pecho y 50M estilo libre. Ha competido a nivel internacional donde ha obtenido 1 medalla de oro en 100M pecho y plata en 50M estilo libre. Su sueño ser oficial nacional FFA.*

WISCONSIN

NEW JERSEY

OKLAHOMA

ARIZONA



Jason Markham

Over the past year Jason, 17, has worked hard to raise and train a beef steer. As a cognitively disabled student, he overcame his special needs and recently had the opportunity to show the steer at the Manitowoc County Fair. When the dust had settled, Jason had earned himself both red and white ribbons. This Mishicot FFA Chapter member's dedication and ability to overcome huge obstacles makes him a true FFA star.*



Stuart Sun

When he entered the East Brunswick Vo-Tech agri-science program in his junior year, Stuart worked hard to show his fellow FFA Chapter members he was caring, responsible and ready to take on new challenges. By his senior year, Stuart was chapter reporter and placed 19th in the state Landscape/ Nursery Career Development Event. Later, at the state convention, Stuart took first place in the state in the Demonstration Career Development Event. Congratulations, Stuart!*



Leah Campbell

Leah's always had her goals in sight and has focused on making her dreams come true. Though she is blind, Leah has participated in FFA activities and competitions, making her an inspiration to fellow FFA members and friends. She exhibits market lambs, competes in public speaking and recently received the Oklahoma State FFA Degree. She graduated with honors and plans to earn a computer science degree from Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee.*



Michael Fitterer

Michael's active role in FFA has earned him a \$2,500 Discover Card Tribute Award scholarship. This FFA chapter treasurer and Chino Valley High School senior also won an Arizona Community Foundation Grant, which he is using for a research project on cloning a type of cactus. Michael is also active in the National Honor Society and lends a hand in community service projects when he gets the chance.*



Horseshoeing is not just about putting shoes on horses anymore. Kyle Bailey, a young Indiana entrepreneur and one of 10 winners of the 1996 National Agri-Entrepreneurship Award is on the cutting edge of the profession.

by Erich Gankel



f you had asked Kyle Bailey five years ago—when he was fresh out of junior high school—what he would be doing now, he would have told you he'd be running his own horseshoeing business. He was

right...well, almost right.

What this 19 year-old might not have been able to tell you is that by this time he'd be an established farrier (another name for a horseshoer), treating 300 horses for 80 customers in three states. All of this in a state-of-the-art shop on wheels, equipped with such amenities as a forge, grinder, bandsaw, TV, VCR, phone, computer and, of course, racks of horseshoes.

"I'm right where I want to be," explains Kyle, "only I've gone further and gotten here quicker." It helps that he was the youngest person ever to graduate from the Kentucky School of Horseshoeing, where he received two weeks of basic instruction—and that was before high school. "I've always set goals and just worked really hard at it. When you start, you do the worst horses. I've now met my goal of just doing strictly show horses and barrel racing horses."





hoe fits...

This Millersburg, Indiana, native has achieved success in his business, but not before putting in his share of long hours, aching bones and thousands of miles on the road. Ask Kyle if it was all worth it, and you'll probably get a grin because the thought of doing anything other than working with horses hasn't even crossed his mind.

"The most rewarding part of my job is seeing a horse that's real sore and struggling—or even one that can't be used—and bringing it back up again so it can be ridden again and be shown. That's why I got into it. I truly love my job."

A different brand of horseshoer

"What I do is a little different from what a lot of guys do," says Kyle, a member of the Fairfield FFA Chapter. Different because he does more than show up in someone's barn and put shoes on a horse. Kyle is concerned with the bigger picture, and this is part of what makes him so successful.

His clients consist of barrel racing horses and show horses. For these horses, locomotion is extremely important, and it's Kyle's job to make sure the feet and legs are working together in harmony.

"If I can keep shoes off a horse, I will. I don't make as much money off of it, but it's a lot healthier on the horse's foot." So what does a horseshoer do if he's not putting shoes on a horse? Kyle says only about half of the horses he treats wear shoes, and the ones that don't still have to be looked after, though

"For a lot of horses, I'll need to trim their feet, just like humans need their toenails trimmed." And like the wheels on a car, the horses' feet need to be balanced, which Kyle says can prevent a lot of problems down the road.

he can pinpoint the problem and explain the treatment.

Technology like this has been a key factor in Kyle's ability to successfully treat the problems of so many horses. He says horseshoeing technology



In the same truck that houses the traditional tools of the trade—the hammer, anvil and forge—stands an impressive multi-media center. Above, Kyle uses his video equipment to explain a treatment. Right, Kyle talks to a client, whose files can be accessed at any time from his laptop computer. Such technology keeps Kyle a step ahead of the competition.

Sometimes treating a horse is as simple as a shoe change or a balancing of the feet. For less obvious problems, says Kyle, "where something just isn't right in the way it's moving," he first needs to watch the horse in motion. If the naked eye can't catch the problem, it's no worry. Kyle just pulls out his video camera, films the horse walking or running, and then plays the tape back in slow motion on the VCR in his truck. Then, with the client watching,



is constantly changing.

For example, he recently worked on a baby horse—a foal—that was born with only half a foot. If that foal had been born 15 or 20 years ago, Kyle says, common practice would have been to euthanize it. With available technology, Kyle was able to build an acrylic hoof with a special glue-on shoe. After sanding the foot thoroughly, the next step

in the procedure is to clean the foot with an acetone-based product, then mix up a special surgical epoxy. "I put that on the foot," explains Kyle, "and then take these thin strips of fiberglass—it's almost a cloth—and I build it up. I'm actually making a cast. What we're hoping will happen with this little guy is that it will encourage natural growth of the foot."

Kyle generally sees his clients' horses every six weeks. Some horses require more attention, some less; in some cases, he will check up on a horse a few times a week for therapeutic work.

Kyle's work is so involved that you might wonder if there's anything left for the veterinarian to do. "Horseshoers are like vets," says Kyle, "except they only work on legs and feet. There's only

so much a vet can do and so much a horseshoer can do."

"I originally wanted to be a vet," admits Kyle, "because vets always got to help horses out. I knew I always wanted to help horses too, but I wanted to get started working right way...Shoeing was something I

could get started in right away, and it was more up my alley."

The school of hard knocks

"With the number of clients I have and the number of horses I'm doing," says Kyle, "I can't afford to get hurt. If we have a horse that's real hard to handle, we'll have a vet come out and tranquilize him, rather than fight him."

With a foal or tranquilized horse, there's not much danger of Kyle getting kicked by his patient. But when he's working on a standing, full-sized horse, there's plenty to be worried about.

In one two-day period, Kyle's left foot was broken twice by two different horses. "The physical part is the hardest," explains Kyle. "I've already got carpal tunnel syndrome in both hands."

"Horseshoers are known for having bad backs and knees," he adds, "so I wear a backbrace and wristbraces and protective clothing." Kyle says the rest is common sense.

A one-man operation

"The best advertisement I've ever had," says Kyle, "is word of mouth. It's free and just the result of people I've worked for telling other people. One of the weekly papers around here found out about me and came and did a story on me. Then a bigger newspaper did a story, then one of the biggest papers around did a half-page story on me. Then channel 22 out of South Bend did a story—and they all came to me," says Kyle, somewhat surprised by all of the attention.

Kyle credits his FFA experience—especially his proficiency award program—with developing his marketing and record-keeping skills. He also says he learned people skills while in FFA, something essential to his line of work. "I'm working on everything from \$5,000 horses to \$100,000 horses, and if something's wrong, people want to know what's going on, so it's not too different from what a doctor does when he tells

you what's wrong with you. I take a lot of time and make sure the customer understands what the problem is and how I'm going to go about fixing it."

Kyle's investment in a one-of-a-kind truck is a key factor in his success. This modified '95 Chevy pickup not only gets him where he's going—to parts of Indiana, Michigan and Ohio—but it also holds an entire shop in the back. When he bought the truck, he took the bed off and put on what he describes as a "box," inside of which are the tools and supplies.

"I do a lot of driving. I may do 250 miles a day. It's just a safe, organized way to transport tools. It's also a more professional look," says Kyle. "If you show up to work on a \$100,000 horse in some old, beat-up truck, it just doesn't work."

Although he's had a couple of apprentice workers help him with such tasks as getting tools ready, Kyle's business is a one man operation, and he likes it that way. "It's one of those deals where nobody can reproduce what I do. I wish I had someone to so some secretarial work for me, but I have an account manager who does my taxes and advises me in business decisions."

One drawback to the one-man business is down time due to illness. "I'm one of those people who likes to work. I've had walking pneumonia and kept working, and I just got over having the flu for two weeks. It would have been over had I stayed down for two or three days, but," says Kyle, "I've got a responsibility to a lot of people."*

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And check out their website: <http://www.br5-49.com>

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It's no wonder Dodge Ram has better resale value than Ford, Chevy or GMC.† Because clearly, this Ram is like no other animal on the farm. For still more information, call 1-800-WORK RAM or visit our Web site at <http://www.4adodge.com>



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†We calculated resale using avg. trade-in values for '94-'95 full-size models vs. MSRP, published in Jan.'95-July '96 N.A.D.A. Official Used Car Guide® monthly editions.

America's Truck Stop



The New Dodge

Once you've picked the schools you're applying to, the first big step on the financial aid path is filling out the financial aid forms. The most important of these is a need analysis document known as the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

Pick up the FAFSA at your guidance counselor's office, college financial aid office or public library. You'll need to fill out this form to be eligible for most types of aid. Some colleges require this plus additional forms, so check with each school.

The FAFSA is used to determine how much of the college expenses your family can afford to pay. This takes some time for you and your parents to complete, so plan ahead, and don't delay in getting it done.

According to Kathy Howard, loan and verification coordinator at Central College in Pella, Iowa, completing the FAFSA correctly is very important. "You need to take your time and read it carefully because the instructions are sometimes confusing," she explains.

Once the form is processed, you will receive the results on a form known as the SAR (Student Aid Report). This form is also mailed to the schools you list when filling out the FAFSA. The schools will then determine your eligibility and financial need based on this SAR.

The key figure on the SAR is the EFC (Expected Family Contribution). Used by colleges to determine your eligibility for loans and need-based grants, this figure

With college costs growing faster than the ivy on the campus walls, how will you swing the costs of tuition, rent and books for four years?

Controlling the costs of college

represents the amount of your college expenses your family will be expected to cover.

If you're looking at a school that costs \$8,000 and your EFC is \$5,000, the school will try to offer you a financial aid package equal to the difference—\$3,000. At a \$25,000 school, your EFC is still \$5,000, so the school will try to come up with a package to cover the difference—\$20,000.

If a school offers you aid, you will receive a letter outlining your

financial aid award package, which can consist of any combination of loans, grants, scholarships or work study.

Gift help

Because they don't need to be repaid, grants and scholarships are the most best types of financial aid.

While there is no clear distinction between the two, a scholarship can generally be thought of as an award for merit, while a grant is generally awarded for need.

The major federal need-based grants include the Federal Pell Grant and the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant. Talk with your high school counselor or college financial aid administrator about other grants available.

Self help aid

The most common loans for undergraduates are the low-interest subsidized and unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loans. Try for the subsidized loan first—this means Uncle Sam pays the interest on the loan while you are in school.

Many schools participate in the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program, which allows you and your parents to choose your lender or bank. Other schools may require you to use their designated lender.

The terms of conditions of the individual loans will vary, so be sure to read the fine print.*

Check it out!

Loans just for FFA members

Low cost loans for college, similar to Federal Stafford Loans, are now available to FFA members through a new program offered by the National FFA Organization.

To participate in the FFA Loan Program, you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and receive an award letter from your school indicating your eligibility for a student loan. For more information and an application, call (800) 777-1136.



The Sky's the

That's how entrepreneurs view the world. These special people are always looking for opportunity and frequently find it where others at best see nothing, and at worst see only problems. Are you the kind of a person who sees the opportunities? If so, you could be on the verge of something big!

Mandie Valentine is that type of person. As a high school freshman in Thomas, Oklahoma, Mandie was browsing through the local pet store and noticed how younger children were fascinated by the hamsters, mice and gerbils. She struck up a conversation with the pet store owner and uncovered an opportunity. The store owner was in need of a reliable local supplier for these furry critters.

The light bulb in Mandie's head clicked on: she had just found the SAE she needed for her agriculture class. Raising rodents, it seemed, met all her criteria: they would fit in the limited space she had available, they didn't require forking over a lot of cash to get started, and there was an available market. With a quiet smile, Mandie invested \$2 in a pair of breeding mice.



After just three years in the rodent business, Mandie has established herself as a leading supplier in Oklahoma and has thousands of these "little livestock" at any given time. She's also built a substantial bank account which she plans to use to pay for college. In addition, she's received several awards and recently walked across the 69th National FFA Convention stage to pick up a cool \$1,000 as the result of being named one of ten National Agri-Entrepreneurs.



For more information on this program, call The Council at 703-360-8832 or look in the Partners section on the FFA website at <http://www.council.ffa.org>.

Limit!



ag·ri·en·tre·pre·neur

(ag·ri·ăn'tre·pre·nür) *n.* A person who identifies and pursues a market opportunity in the face of risk which may result in new businesses, products or services within the field of agriculture including food, the environment and natural resources.

Would you like to pocket \$1,000 for one of your ideas?

Then start looking for opportunities in your community to make a job instead of taking a job. The Agri-Entrepreneurship Program is designed to honor young people who recognize and pursue market opportunities.

Unlike other FFA awards, you don't have to have an established SAE or a big bottom line to be competitive—even if you're a first-year FFA member! What you do have to have is a good idea and a plan to pursue it. So, whether you've already established a business or you've just identified a market niche and are working on your business plan, you're eligible to compete for the Agri-Entrepreneur awards. *You can win up to \$150 locally and \$1,000 nationally.*

Applying for the award is easy. The application consists of a series of questions asking you to describe your business or the business you're planning. *Ask your advisor for an application today!*



The Agri-Entrepreneurship Education Program is a joint activity of the National Council for Agricultural Education, the National Vocational Agriculture Teachers' Association, the National FFA Alumni Association, the U.S. Department of Education and the National FFA Organization. This initiative is sponsored by and in partnership with the Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership Inc. of the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Kansas The City: only

pla



With **enthusiastic** speakers, **interactive** workshops,
tough competitions, **late-night** dances and **earth-shaking** light
and sound shows, a **record-breaking** swarm of 41,275 descended
on Kansas City for a **triumphant** 69th National FFA Convention.

CE to be



69th in 96

By the time the final session of the 69th National FFA Convention had adjourned, a record-shattering 41,275 FFA members, advisors, staff and guests had come together in Kansas City, Missouri, to celebrate "FFA—Leaders with a Vision," the theme of this year's event.

Despite the cold weather and scarcity of sunlight, the blue and gold of the corduroy jackets were everywhere—pouring from the hotels, out of the parking lots, up and down the escalators and around every corner.

Municipal Auditorium, the site of all nine general sessions of this 69th National FFA Convention, was the source of the excitement that had been building since the first FFA members began rolling into the quiet downtown Kansas City streets the weekend before.

As Bill Catania practiced his retiring address on Monday night to thousands of empty seats and only a few sound and lighting technicians, the hall's energy cooled in suspense. Technicians were busy with last-minute tinkering on the jumbo monitors above the artificial smoke machine.

sputtered clouds that disappeared into the cool air of the vast arena. Stage lights flickered on and off as they were tested and aligned. Preparations like this are required when you're planning one of the largest annual youth gatherings on the planet.

Running on all cylinders

By the time Bill made his way to the stage on Friday morning for his retiring



"My most memorable moment of this convention was seeing Terry Bradshaw give his keynote speech at the opening session. He was quite the motivational speaker and did a tremendous job, describing what his life is like and how agriculture plays a part in his life."

Jay Feazel, Metamora, Illinois

address, "For Just One Moment...", the convention was already into its second full day. By this time the sound, lights and jumbo screens worked in perfect harmony. An eager and tuned-in crowd, sparked by the thundering music and light show, locked its eyes and ears on Bill as he drew his year as national officer to a close.

As Bill engaged his audience at Municipal Auditorium, former

national officer Lee Schroeder was across the street, delivering a leadership workshop to around 200 members. With a voice strained by enthusiasm, he showed members new ways to develop their individual potential and learn to work effectively with others.

At the same time, in the Hyatt's Pershing Hall, finalists in the poultry CDE were already underway, evaluating

chickens and turkeys and carefully explaining their classifications to the judges. Heads hovered low over eggs, inspecting them with a careful eye.

Bustling Bartle Hall

Over in Bartle Hall, the FFA National Agricultural Career Show was alive with activity. Moving in

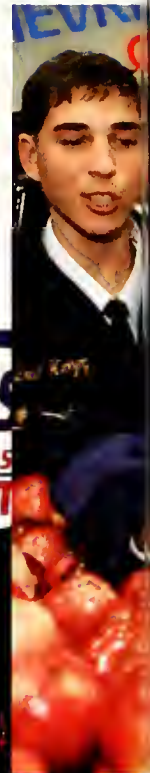
A Rio Good Time

Indiana FFA member wins dream convention trip

Miranda Tarr wasn't planning on attending convention. So, when this Indiana FFA member got a call from Arista Records in Nashville a few days before convention, telling her that she'd won the "College, Convention and Concert," contest, she, her dad and her advisor packed their bags and headed to K.C.

Besides meeting with the members of the band Diamond Rio backstage before their show at the American Royal Rodeo, Miranda received autographed CDs, sky-box tickets to the concert, a free trip to Kansas City for convention and—best of all—a \$2,500 scholarship for college which was presented to her in front of a jam-packed audience at Kemper Arena.

Congratulations, Miranda!



a log-jam of blue jackets, members stopped to do pull-ups at the Marines' booth; they climbed into the cabs of the latest model Dodge trucks and John Deere tractors; they talked to representatives of colleges from around the country; they took a surf on the computers logged onto National FFA Online; they even tested their hunting skills at a virtual reality booth set up by Winchester.

At the Food Court,

entrance to their store, where they sold their special black and white-splotched cow caps for \$8.

FFA clothing continued to move off the shelves at a frantic pace. Also popular this year were Stetson hats, Justin boots (with the kiltie of course), western shirts—and anything with Ty England's name on it.

Ty's autograph stand, as it turns out, proved to be one of Bartle Hall's busiest attractions. Some

we talked to her, she was at the front of the line after another wait—this time for three-and-a-half hours.

Convention wisdom

The Reflections keynote Speakers brought FFA members in Municipal Auditorium new perspectives on their own lives by sharing their own experiences on the path to success.

Speaker Rick Riggsby made a positive impression on Yoakum, Texas, FFA member Anthony James. "He said that the four 'P's—

Bradshaw showed he was a true "leader with a vision," translating his football experience into something valuable for FFA members to take home with them: "What if today was the last time you all gathered together?" said Bradshaw. "What if you never climbed on another tractor or combine? What if your



breakfast lines formed as soon as the doors were unlocked. The folks over at Bill Sharp's BBQ estimated they'd go through as much as 150 gallons of barbecue sauce in three days; Domino's Pizza guessed they'd serve up about 4,000 slices per day—that's 1,500 pizzas over three days!

Students from the East Kansas City High School FFA Chapter stood out at the FFA Shopping Mall. Members in full-body cow suits stood on chairs at the



FFA members stood in line for as long as four hours to meet Ty and get his autograph. Julie Parker, of Dolan, South Dakota, waited in line for three and a half hours one day for Ty's autograph, but had to leave for another commitment before she got to the front of the line. The next day, when

passion, power, progression and persistence—are the best things you can have in your character," explained Anthony, "and they can bring out certain abilities in you."

Moving around the stage as if he were still a Pittsburgh Steeler out on the football field, Terry



Photos, from left to right: Kansas City East members selling their famous cow caps; making a stop at one of the many Career Show booths; veterinarian and former Miss America Debbye Turner lights up the audience at Municipal Auditorium; picking apples from the bed of a pickup at the Career Show; checking in on chickens at a competition; keeping tabs at the horse CDE; former football champion Terry Bradshaw scores again.

passion was farming, or your passion was agricultural economics—or agricultural management—or agricultural science? What happens if it's the passion in your life? And

69th in 96

Celebrating Diversity

New H.O. Sargent Award recalls days of the NFA

A piece of agricultural history was brought back to life at this year's convention when the new H.O. Sargent Award was presented to recognize individuals who have achieved and promoted diversity in agricultural education and the FFA.

The award is an updated form of the award of the same name that existed in the New Farmers of America (NFA), the organization that once was home to African-American agriculture students. The NFA was incorporated into the FFA in 1965.

The award was established by the FFA in 1995 to recognize the NFA's place in the history of FFA.

"It's a great experience-going to all the sessions, especially the one with Rick Rigsby—he was excellent. He was talking about taking a ride in a small airplane-how the pilot has to have a vision of where he's going before he actually gets there. That applies back to us. You have to know where you're going in life."

Devon Wilcox, Chariho, Rhode Island

Here are the winners of this year's award: Walter Jones of Pinetop, North Carolina, agricultural education instructor at Southwest Edgecombe High School.

Dr. Ferman Moody of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, state director of vocational-technical education and a former member of the NFA.

William Sam Combs of Bristow, Oklahoma, founder of REAP-Retired Educators for Agricultural Programs-an organization whose goal is to increase participation of African-American youth in agricultural education and FFA.



what if today was your last day? Could you honestly say to yourself that I gave it my very best, that I absolutely believed in the road I was traveling, and I gave it my very best?

Packing it up

As the new national officers were rushed onto the stage during the closing session on Saturday night, the convention's energy level reached its peak. Overwhelmed with emotion, members from the new national officers' states cheered as tears streamed from their eyes.

As the session



soon came to a close, the convention was over.

The auditorium emptied quickly as students, advisors and parents now had to start making the trip home. They left by bus, plane, van and car.

Within an hour, downtown Kansas City

was empty again for the first time in a week.

Bringing it all home

Christopher Walker, of the Fremont Chapter in Ogden, Utah, says his convention experience will be useful for building his chapter. "I want my experience here to spark

up some people so they'll want to get into FFA, just to get them going. It may give them some ideas too."

Tremayne Wilson, of the Billingsley Chapter in Alabama, hopes to do the same for his chapter. "I'm the treasurer in my chapter, so I hope to take back more leadership skills and try to show my chapter members how FFA changed the national officers over the past year."*

"Convention is a way of making a lot of new friends and learning leadership skills and meeting people. You always hear about convention from everybody, but actually being here is neat."

Chad Christensen,
Ogden, Utah



"I came to national convention because I thought it would be a great learning experience and a great way to meet people. You learn a lot of leadership skills, which is handy for chapter officers. It gives us ideas on how to change things in our chapter."

Amanda Hazan,
Los Banos, California



Photos, from left to right: an award winner celebrates his achievement; Ty England, an FFA favorite, delivers a song; 1995-96 national officers present a skit about the history of FFA; Joe Caffee presents an H.O. Sargent Award; FFA members take a seat in the cab of a tractor at the Career Show; puzzled by downtown parking meters; taking a break to write letters; motivational speaker Rick Rigsby gets his point across.

A Reason to be Thankful

Another bumper crop for the National FFA Foundation, Inc.

Thanks to the National FFA Foundation, there is money to fund all of the FFA programs, awards and activities, including the national FFA convention. For 30 consecutive years, the Foundation has outdone itself by setting record levels of support.

This year is no exception. Allan R. Johnson, president of Farm Progress Companies and 1996 FFA Foundation Sponsors' Board chairman, announced that the Foundation raised a total of \$6,707,000 in 1996!

"The FFA provides excellent training, not only for agricultural careers, but also for personal leadership skills," Johnson said. "My industry colleagues and I know that supporting the FFA today ensures us well-trained, motivated employees tomorrow."

Wayne L. Beck, vice-president of supply management at Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. will chair the 1997 FFA Foundation Sponsors' Board.

1996-1997 National FFA Officers

President: Corey Rosenbusch
Age: 19
Parents: Gary and Vickie Rosenbusch
Advisor: Gary Rosenbusch
Hometown: Glen Rose, Texas
Chapter: Glen Rose
SAE: Swine raising
Education: Freshman at Texas A&M University
Major: Agricultural development

Vice president (eastern region):
Ray Starling
Age: 20
Parents: Murd and JoAnn Starling
Advisors: Barry Croom and Glenn Howell
Hometown: Autryville, North Carolina
Chapter: Midway
SAE: Nursery crop production and placement

on tobacco and swine farm
Education: Junior at North Carolina State University
Major: Agricultural education



Vice President (southern region):
Charlie Jones
Age: 20
Parents: Charles and Jan Jones

Secretary: Holly Bentley
Age: 19
Parents: Roger and Beverly Bentley
Advisor: Kenneth Fliehm
Hometown: Sabina, Ohio
Chapter: East Clinton
SAE: Production of swine, corn, soybeans, fruit, vegetables
Education: Sophomore at The Ohio State University
Major: Agricultural education

Advisor: Clayton Spencer
Hometown: Billingsley, Alabama
Chapter: Billingsley
SAE: Horse production, forage crops
Education: Junior at Auburn University
Major: Agricultural economics

Vice president (western region):
Rachel Fehringer
Age: 20

Parents: Kenneth and Judith Fehringer
Advisor: Larry Geu
Hometown: Peetz, Colorado
Chapter: Peetz
SAE: Horse production and agricultural placement
Education: Junior at Colorado State University
Major: Agricultural economics

Vice president (central region):
Brad Montgomery
Age: 19
Parents: Lindon and Diane Montgomery
Advisor: Max Keltz
Hometown: McDonald, Kansas
Chapter: Cheylin
SAE: Sheep production, registered seed wheat production and placement in agribusiness firm
Education: Sophomore at Kansas State University
Major: Agricultural economics

69th in 96

The last word from your 1996 national FFA officers

The following are excerpts from the retiring addresses by Bill, Andy, Seth, Clara-Leigh, Joe and Cody

Bill Catania

"For Just One Moment"

As we sit here, there are people who are your age

and mine who are not living. Some are killing themselves with drugs or violence. Some are stealing and violating the rights of others by breaking laws. But here you sit in Kansas City, Missouri, in a sea of blue and gold. White, Black, Asian, Hispanic and Native American. You come in all shapes and sizes—I am living proof of that. Regardless of our similarities and differences, we have gathered here to celebrate being "Leaders with a Vision." And it is our vision which will allow us to experience defining moments, and most importantly help others experience theirs.

Andy McCall

"Outside the Fire"

There are so many people who help us out every day and make a difference in our lives. We must turn around and do the same for others. It is so easy to stand inside the fire of selfishness and only worry about our time and our feelings, but we must stand outside of the fire and focus on making a difference for others.

Even in times of struggle, staying focused on others will help us make it through. We can be guaranteed that we will face many more struggles throughout our lives, and there is another thing that we can do to succeed—we must stay focused on doing what is right and on living a life of character.

Joe Caffee

"Average Joe"

When I was in high school and would see a national officer at state or national convention, I would always wonder how they had gotten to be so talented and

gifted. Last November after I was elected I kept wondering when the magical national officer fairy would come and turn me into a national officer. You know what? I'm still waiting on that magical fairy...I don't feel any different than the day I was elected...Despite all that has happened to me, I am still the same guy from Berne, Indiana, who is proud to be an FFA member.

Seth Derner

"In the Light"

FFA members, I've seen your goals and dreams. I've watched your successes and your defeats. I may not know all your names and faces, but I do know this: with hope you can never fail—only learn to try again; with hope you can never discourage others—only inspire them to follow your example; with hope you can never let fear control your life—only let your dreams lead the way.

Clara-Leigh Horn

"More than Stars"

You are a star to someone, and it is your character and your actions that they notice. Just like you don't see the flaws and the heat of the stars, people may just see parts of you, and don't you want it to be the best that they see? If the stars of your dreams and the stars of others are burned in your heart, then the stars you need are the stars that make up the codes, beliefs and standards by which you choose to live.

Cody Wagner

"If the Shoe Fits"

In order to be successful in FFA, you must be willing to overcome adversity on your journey. When you choose to enter a speaking

competition, begin an agriscience program, or apply for an office, your first few steps will be difficult. Each time you begin, keep in mind what the outcome will be when you overcome those obstacles. If you exert the effort, you can be competitive in career development events, you may be elected to an office, and you can achieve your highest goals.*

Thank You Kansas City Sponsors!

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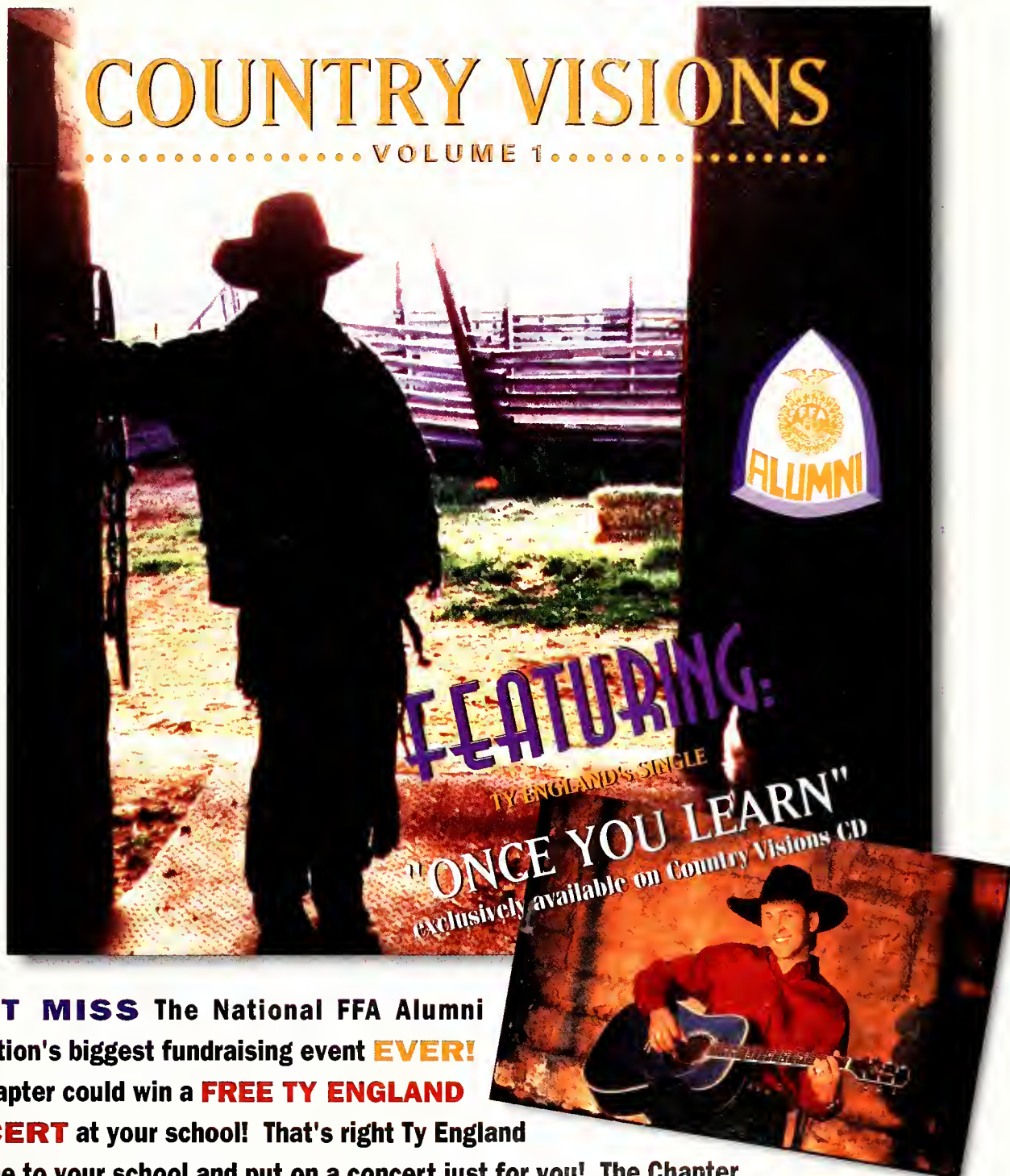
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MATTER IF
YOU DID *or*
DIDN'T
WEAR *it.*
JOIN IT!



Catch a Rising Star

IT'S TRUE. Whether you were an FFA member or not, you can join the National FFA Alumni Association and be a part of an organization that prides itself in helping make our children's lives better.

As a member you will take an active part in building your community at the local, state, and national level, while playing a vital role in your children's lives today. Your commitment helps ensure the continued success of America's premier leadership organization, **join the National FFA Alumni Association.**

Call the National FFA Alumni Association at (703) 360-3600, ext. 293 or mail in the attached card today for more information.



Ty England

As one of Nashville's brightest stars, he went to Kansas City and took the national FFA convention by storm. Now find out what makes Ty tick.

Since he left Garth Brooks' band a while back, Ty England has been making a splash with his own contagious blend of high-flyin' road-house country and soulful ballads. You can hear it all (if you haven't already) on his new record, "Two Ways to Fall."

Talking on the phone from the quiet attic of his home in Gallatin, Tennessee, Ty shared his thoughts about music, living on the road and his excitement about being spokesperson for the National FFA Alumni Association.

Who are some of your early musical influences?

The first real musical influence I had was my grandfather, my mom's dad. I was a typical little boy, I was only five, about the time he started taking up the guitar around me. So I figured grandpa pretty much hung the moon. When he told me Hank Williams Sr. was great, I proclaimed to everyone I knew that I knew songs that were better than songs that they knew, because grandpa said they were good. He influenced me through the music of Hank Sr., Lefty Frizzell and all the old Opry stars including Roy Acuff.

What do you want people to take away from a Ty England concert?

I hope, if anything at all,

they can come to my show and hear a piece of music that might touch their life in some way—something that helps us relate. One of the coolest things that can happen is you take that music up on that stage and play it for people that might have never heard it. And you can watch the people who are affected by your music because you see it happen. You either see them getting up with a fun song, and smiling or singing along, or you might sing a song that touches them in some way. As it does that, you're instantly building a bridge from you to them—in a way I feel like I'm making friends. And I usually find that out after the show because after the shows we go out and do an autograph session for anybody that wants to meet us, so many people come up and say that they're glad they came because the music said something to them.

How do you balance all of your touring, recording and family life?

It's virtually impossible. Especially when you're

new, which is really the category I'm in. I've been around for six years with Garth, but when I signed my record deal and left that organization, I was on my own, starting anew. When you're new in this business, you're gone all the time. When you're not doing a show somewhere, they're asking you to fly somewhere else, to meet somebody or whatever the case may be. Being a part of the family is one of the toughest things I do.

As the spokesperson for the National FFA Alumni Association, what positive differences do you see the FFA making in the lives of its members?

Through out this past year I've met a lot of young FFA members.

I would be proud to be friends with any of them. I've not met young people as well spoken as FFA members. They are very respectful—they cover you up with "yes ma'ams" and "yes sirs." That's the way I was raised, and that's the way I want to see young people raised.

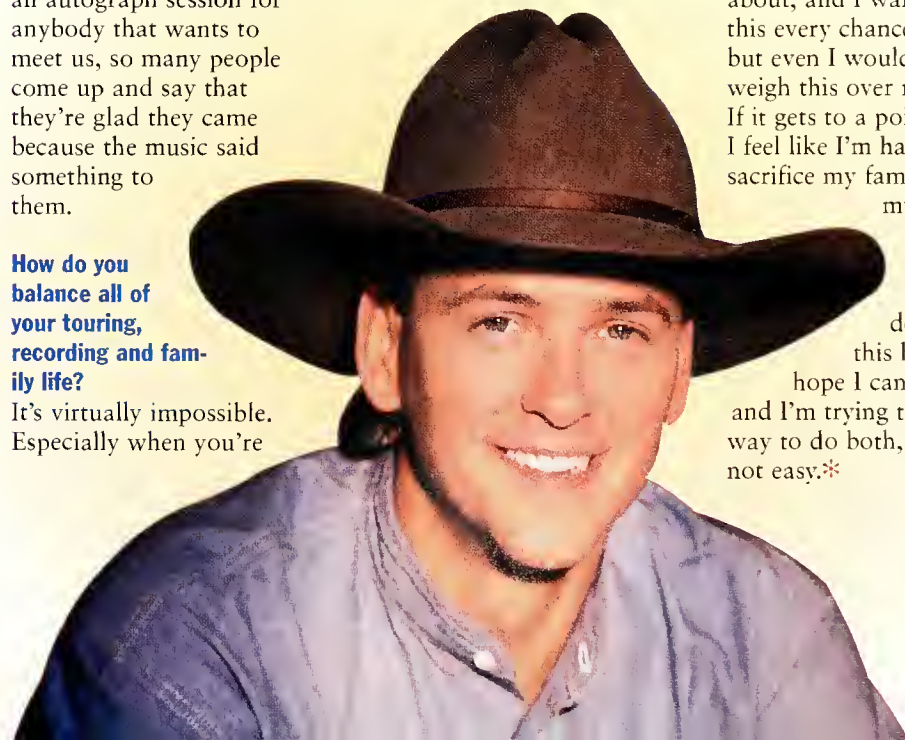
What advice can you give aspiring musicians?

I've got this instinct to tell people that if you're on fire from music, don't shy away from it. But at the same time, I've got to tell people the honest truth—that it's a tough choice of career.

I would tell them to make sure this is where you want to be. Music is obviously something I've been very passionate about, and I want to give this every chance I can, but even I would not weigh this over my family. If it gets to a point where I feel like I'm having to sacrifice my family too

much, even I would hang this up. I don't hope this happens. I

hope I can do both, and I'm trying to find a way to do both, but it's not easy.*



Last Laff

Q: What do you call a cornfield with no ears?

A: Anything you want. It can't hear you.

James Horn
Greenup, Kentucky

Q: Why do bees hum?

A: Because they don't know the words.

Jason Spear
Creswell, North Carolina

Q: What do you get from a nervous milk cow?

A: A milk shake.

Heather Mills
Medina, Texas

Q: How does the skunk get ahold of his friends?

A: He uses his smell-ular phone.

Holly Killinger
Cottonwood, Arizona

Q: What kind of tree pins on to you?

A: A piñon tree.

Robin Atcitty
Shiprock, New Mexico

Q: What animal can you never trust?

A: A cheetah.

Jennifer Handy
Beeville, Texas

Q: Did you hear about the guy who got fired from the orange juice company?

A: He just couldn't concentrate.

Holly Bezant
Marshville, North Carolina

Q: How do really small people communicate?

A: With microphones.

Toby Beaty
Monroe, Tennessee

Q: What is a pig's favorite TV show?

A: Swinefeld

Eric Myers
Anadarko, Oklahoma

Q: Why did the teddy bear stop eating?

A: Because it was stuffed.

April Fowkes
Mona, Utah

Q: What did the mayonnaise say to the refrigerator?

A: Please close the door—I'm dressing.

Benjamin Acedo
Lomita, California

Q: Why must you go to bed at night?

A: Because the bed won't come to you.

Lyn Bowling
Annville, Kentucky

Q: How far can a bear run into the forest?

A: Half-way. Then he's running out.

Mary Mainord
East Prairie, Missouri

Q: What has a foot but can't walk?

A: A bed.

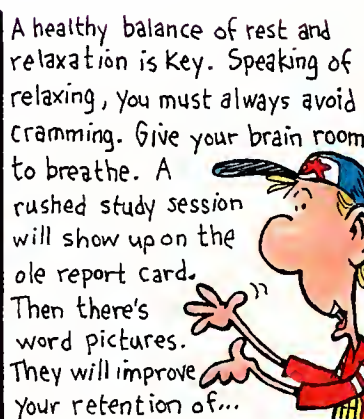
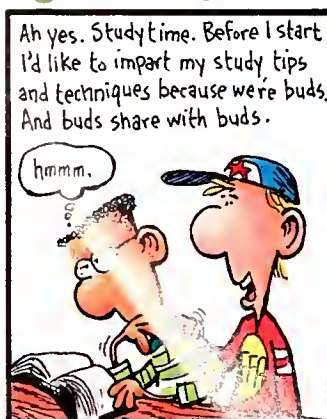
Shelby Crawford
Branchville, South Carolina

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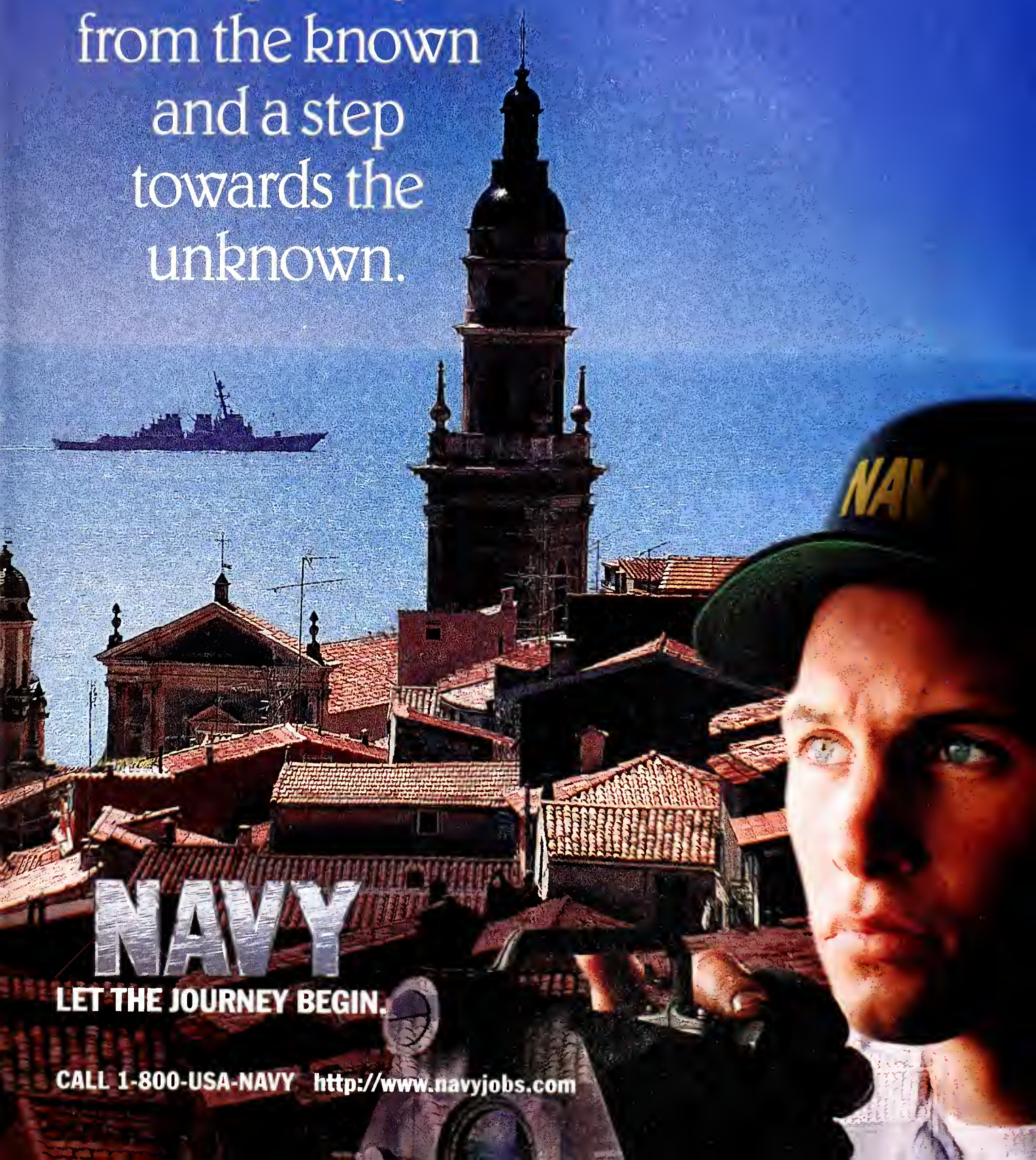
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Agrinuts by Jim Bradshaw



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